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RUEHFR/USMISSION UNESCO PARIS 0004

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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/MAG AND IO/UNESCO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AORC](#) [SOCI](#) [KISL](#) [UNESCO](#) [OIC](#) [MO](#)

SUBJECT: CONGRATULATORY LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA FROM THE  
ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION  
(ISESCO)

¶1. Summary and introduction: The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) Director General, Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, has sent a letter of congratulations to President Obama. The January 23, 2009 letter praised President Obama's commitment to engage the Islamic World with mutual interest and respect. In response, ISESCO offers to work to translate this concept into "concrete action." ISESCO, headquartered in Rabat, is a quasi-independent sub-entity of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). ISESCO has a role in promoting education and culture similar to UNESCO, with a mandate to assist curriculum development and educational programs throughout the Islamic world, and may merit USG engagement. The original of the letter has been scanned and sent to Department (NEA/MAG). End Summary.

¶2. BEGIN TEXT (Original in English):

Allow me Mr. President to sincerely congratulate you on your investiture as President of the United States of America, which shoulders a great responsibility for keeping world peace and security, preserving democratic values and public liberties, and administering justice, in accordance with international legality.

By virtue of your distinguished record, your ambition, your probity and your eagerness for constructive change, you have not only fulfilled a dream cherished by millions of American citizens but also earned the admiration and respect of millions of people around the world.

We at the Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), which includes fifty States of the Islamic world and has fruitful cooperation relationships with tens of international and regional organizations, greet your investiture with great optimism and wish you every success in your lofty missions in addressing acute problems and tough challenges that befall today's world. These include wars, aggression on peoples, rights and dignity, economic recession, poverty and other scourges that require concerted and continuous global action to find a remedy thereto.

Mr. President, in your inaugural speech, you have pointed out your willingness to seek new way forward with the Islamic world, based on mutual interest and mutual respect. We wholeheartedly subscribe to this highly commendable gesture and will contribute all our potentials and expertise to set it into motion.

Therefore, I hereby confirm to Your Excellency that ISESCO, within its competence and through its network of special relations with its Member States as well as with international and regional organizations, is keen to pursue its efforts to translate this constructive move into concrete

action.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

/s/  
Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri  
Director General

END TEXT.

13. Scanned original sent to NEA/MAG.

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Visit Embassy Rabat's Classified Website;  
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/rabat>  
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